

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02

INRE-00 SSO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 /102 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MCANDREW

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS

----- 036410

O 212035Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - OCTOBER 20

1.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR OCTOBER 20,
1976:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION OR CAN YOU TELL US IF A
SOVIET PILOT WHO DEFECTED IN IRAN HAS BEEN GRANTED
POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES? HIS NAME IS
ZASIMOV -- VALENTIN IVANOVICH ZASIMOV.

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT AT THE MOMENT. I WILL HAVE
TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH LAST NIGHT (TUESDAY), WAS
THAT CLEARED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE, BOTH THE PREPARED
REMARKS AND THE UNPREPARED REMARKS?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q. DID HE SPEAK AT THE WHITE HOUSE'S SUGGESTION?

A. THE SECRETARY SPEAKS AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPART-
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MENT, AND I DO NOT KNOW AT WHOSE SUGGESTION HE WENT UP
THERE. THAT HAS BEEN ON THE SCHEDULE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS
NOW. I THINK IT WAS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK, IF I AM NOT
MISTAKEN.

Q. HE DIDN'T TAKE THE WHITE HOUSE BY SURPRISE BY
ARGUING THAT OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS MORALLY SOUND.

A. I PRESUME THAT THE WHITE HOUSE IS AWARE OF WHAT THE SECRETARY IS DOING. I WOULD CONSIDER THAT MANDATORY, TO COORDINATE PUBLIC APPEARANCES AND POLICY. AS THE SECRETARY HIMSELF HAS SAID, HE IS IN CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT ON A DAILY BASIS, AND I CERTAINLY THINK THE WHITE HOUSE WAS AWARE THAT HE WAS GOING UP TO NEW YORK TO MAKE A SPEECH.

Q. AND YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IF THE REMARK THAT ISRAEL ISN'T A BURDEN ON THE UNITED STATES WAS SPONTANEOUS OR NOT.

A. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THE SECRETARY ARRIVES AT HIS WORDS. HE IS A VERY METICULOUS DRAFTER AND REVIEWER OF DRAFTS, AND I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT GOES ON IN HIS MIND WHEN HE PUTS PEN TO PAPER.

Q. BUT CERTAINLY NOT A POLITICAL ANIMAL, BY ANY CHANCE.

A. I THINK HE ADDRESSED THAT IN HIS SPEECH.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A TRANSCRIPT OF HIS SPEECH AS DELIVERED?

A. NO, WE DO NOT. WE HAVE IT AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, IT HAS BEEN CHARGED BY PALESTINIANS THAT ISRAELI ARMORED VEHICLES OCCUPIED THE TOWN OF ZAARUM JUST INSIDE THE LEBANESE BORDER FROM ISRAEL. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THAT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

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2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE OCTOBER 20 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE SOVIET PILOT WHO DEFECTED TO TEHRAN HAS ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. NO.

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